Family

10.1 Childcare

If you are bringing your children with you to Germany, you should look into the question of childcare at the earliest opportunity and take steps to find a place for your children while you are still at home. If you wait until you arrive in Germany, you will have to reckon on joining a waiting list for a place in a childcare facility.

Day-Care Centers

Day-care centers ("Kindertagesstätte" or "Kita") look after children from the age of four months until they start school. Full-time day-care is usually offered for 45 hours per week. Day-care centers are operated by different kinds of organization. Apart from municipal facilities, there are also church-run and private day-care centers as well as associations (so-called parents’ initiatives) in which parents are expected to play an active role. The University of Bonn also operates two day-care centers of its own in cooperation with Bonn Student Services. When you have decided on a facility, get in contact immediately to ensure that your child can be catered for.

There is a charge for childcare which varies according to family income, age of the children and number of hours of care required. In addition, a separate monthly sum has to be paid for a catering package.

In-Home Care Providers

For children from the age of four months onwards, there is the option of choosing in-home day-care instead of a day-care center. This is provided by carers known as "Tagesmütter" or "Tagesväter" (day mothers or day fathers) on an individualized basis with flexible hours. They usually look after several children at a time in their own homes. Day parents must be trained and have an official "Pflegeerlaubnis" (care license) issued by the local "Jugendamt" (Youth Welfare Office). Ever more day parents are getting together to form professional groups and hiring accommodation.

In Bonn:

When searching for the right childcare solution for your family, you can get advice and support at the University of Bonn’s Family Office which accepts applications for the university’s own day-care centers and can also give the names of potential babysitters.

**Family Office at the University of Bonn**

Konviktstraße 4, 53113 Bonn

0228 / 737273

familienbuero@uni-bonn.de

www.familienbuero.uni-bonn.de

City of Bonn – Information on Childcare:


International Childcare in Bonn:

www.welcome-center.uni-bonn.de

> Service and Advice > Family > Childcare

**KiTa Search NRW**

www.kita.nrw.de

> KiTa-Finder NRW

Insider Info

In Germany, children who have completed the first year of life have a legal right to childcare in a day-care center ("Tagesstätte") or "Tagpflegeeinrichtung".)
All children living in Germany are required to attend school between the ages of 6 and 15. The first stage of school is called “Grundschule” (Years 1–4). After this, there is a choice between three different types of school: “Hauptschule”, which continues until Year 9 or 10 and leads to a general school leaving certificate called “Hauptschulabschluss”; “Realschule”, which continues until Year 10 and culminates in an intermediate school leaving certificate, known as “Realschulabschluss”; “Gymnasium”, which continues until Year 12 and leads to the higher school leaving certificate, or “Abitur”, which is also the entrance qualification for higher education. Apart from these schools, there are also “Gesamtschulen” and “Sekundarschulen”, which combine the three types of school under one roof and offer the various school leaving certificates.

Attendance at state-run schools in Germany is free of charge. There are only very few fee-paying private and international schools. The local “Schulamt” (education authority) can provide information on the situation in your area. You usually decide which school to choose after a visit and an interview with the school management. Depending on the Federal State, the school year normally begins after the summer vacation between July and September. At most schools in Germany lesson time is being extended significantly.

In Bonn: Schools
There are several international or bilingual schools in Bonn where teaching is conducted in English, French or Spanish. You will find an overview of these schools at the University of Bonn’s Family Office.

Family Office at the University of Bonn
Konviktstraße 4
53113 Bonn
0228 / 737273
familienbuero@uni-bonn.de
www.familienbuero.uni-bonn.de

Local Education Authority (Schulamt der Stadt Bonn)
Advisory center for children and youth with insufficient knowledge of German
0228 / 775784
ifk@bonn.de
www.bonn.de > English
> Family & Society, Education & Social Issues > Schools > Education Guide

Vacation Programs
On the website of the Family Office at the University of Bonn you will find information about childcare offerings during the school vacations. The dates are usually announced at the beginning of the year and updated information is published in the regular newsletters. If you wish to be included on the mailing list, just send an e-mail to familienbuero@uni-bonn.de

10.2 Schools
Family Benefits

10.3 Family Benefits

Child Benefit

Parents are eligible to apply for “Kindergeld” (child benefit) for children up to at least the age of 18. Under certain circumstances, foreign parents are also entitled to child benefit.

Child benefit is usually paid when the applicant is domiciled or normally resident in Germany. Applicants resident abroad may be eligible for child benefit if they are subject to unlimited tax liability in Germany.

Child benefit is currently 192 euro per month for the first and second child, 198 euro for the third child and 223 euro for each additional child.

Applications for child benefit can be made in writing after birth. Applications must be made within one year from the date of birth. The application should be made to “Familienkasse” (Family Office) in the Federal Employment Agency. If the parent who wishes to claim child benefit is a public servant, the relevant Family Office is the same institution that is responsible for salaries. Employees at the University of Bonn receive their child benefit from the “Landesamt für Besoldung und Versorgung NRW” (NRW Salaries and Pensions Office, LBV).

Parental Allowance

Parental allowance is an important form of support for families during the first months of a child’s life. It compensates for loss of income following the birth of a child. Parental allowance makes it easier for mothers and fathers to interrupt or temporarily reduce work commitments in order to have time for their child.

Parental allowance comes in the form of “Basiselterngeld” (basic parental allowance) and “EtteneingeldPlus” (parental allowance plus).

Basic parental allowance compensates for the loss of income after the birth of the child. If both parents make use of the option to split the period between them, deciding who spends more time at home, either parent may claim for a period of 14 months; it is paid in accordance with the months of the child’s life. Parents are able to split this period between them, deciding who spends more time at home. Either parent may claim a minimum of two months and a maximum of 12 months. The allowance is paid for an additional two months if both parents make use of the option (partner months) or if the applicant is a single parent and the family income will be completely or partially lost for at least two months.

Parental allowance plus is a flexible form of classic parental allowance (basic parental allowance) and is essentially intended for parents who would like to return to work earlier. It is calculated in the same way as the basic allowance but can only reach a maximum of half the sum parents would be entitled to receive if they did not have a part-time income after birth. Parental allowance plus is paid for twice the period of time: one “parental allowance month” equals two “parental allowance plus months”. The partnership bonus of up to 4 additional parental allowance plus months is paid if both parents work between 25 and 30 hours a week concurrently for four consecutive months.

Eligibility:

Mothers and fathers are eligible for parental allowance if:

■ They care for and educate their children themselves after birth,
■ They are not employed for more than 30 hours per week,
■ They live together with their children in one household,
■ They are resident or have their habitual place of residence in Germany.

Under certain circumstances, parental allowance may also be paid in respect of employment abroad.

In Bonn: Contacts for Questions Relating to Child Benefit

The responsible Family Office for employees at the University of Bonn is the “Landesamt für Besoldung und Versorgung NRW” (NRW Salaries and Pensions Office, LBV).

In Bonn:

LBV – Family Benefits Office
44797 Düsseldorf
0221 / 602301
kindergeld@lbv.nrw.de
www.finanzverwaltung.nrw.de/kindergeld

Family Benefits Office Bonn
Villemombe Straße 101
53123 Bonn
0228 / 542337
milan@finanzverwaltung.nordrhein-westfalen.de

Web addresses:
www.arbeitsagentur.de
www.actionphilantrophy.de
Employment Opportunities for Partners

Job Offers

You will find job offers in the weekend editions of newspapers, online, on notice boards or through the employment agencies belonging to the “Bundesagentur für Arbeit” (Federal Employment Agency).

Application and Deadlines:
Applications for “Elterngeld” (parental allowance) must be made in writing to the office responsible for parental allowance in the Federal States. Any parent may apply for parental allowance for him- or herself. The application does not necessarily have to be submitted immediately after birth. Retrospective payments are, however, only made for the previous three months prior to the month in which the application for parental allowance was received.

EU / EEA / Swiss Nationals:
If you are a national of a Member State of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland you are usually eligible for parental allowance if you are employed in Germany or, if you are unemployed, but live in Germany.

Other Nationals:
Other foreign parents are eligible to receive parental allowance if they have a valid settlement permit or residence permit entitling them to pursue gainful employment.

Employment Law Regulations
If you are accompanying your husband or wife to Germany and intend to search for a job, please take note of the employment law regulations (see Chapter 5.4). Enquire at the German foreign mission or the local “Ausländeramt” (Immigration Office) whether as a marital partner you are eligible to engage in gainful employment and what documents may be required to do so.

Information and Advisory Points:
EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal: http://ec.europa.eu/eures
Bundesagentur für Arbeit (Federal Employment Agency): www.arbeitsagentur.de
Useful Online Job Portals:
www.euraxess.eu
www.academics.de
www.monster.de
www.kalaydo.de
www.stepstone.de
For public service positions: www.bund.de
In Bonn: Employment Agency Bonn
Villemombler Straße 101
53204 Bonn
0 800 / 4555500
Bonn@arbeitsagentur.de
www.arbeitsagentur.de

Insider Info: Tax Allowance for Children
If you are a tax-payer in Germany, you are entitled to a “Kinderfreibetrag” (tax allowance) for dependent children. This entitlement starts in the month in which the child is born and currently amounts to 7,356 euro per year (as of 2017). If you take advantage of the tax allowance, this will be offset against child benefit. When assessing your tax liability, the Tax Office will automatically calculate whether it is more advantageous for you to claim child benefit or the tax allowance.

Dual Career Service for the partners of newly-appointed professors and newly-employed junior research group leaders:
www.dual-career.uni-bonn.de

In Bonn: Applying for Parental Allowance
If you live in Bonn, you should apply to the “Amt für Kinder, Jugend und Familie” (Office for Children, Youth and Families) for parental allowance.

City of Bonn
Office for Children, Youth and Families
Dept. 51
Sankt Augustiner Straße 86, 53225 Bonn
www.bonn.de > Familie & Gesellschaft > Bildung & Soziales > Kinder, Jugend & Familie > Beratung & Helfen > Elterngeld und Elternzeit

10.4 Employment Opportunities for Partners

Job Offers

If you will take up a job offer in the weekend editions of newspapers, online, on notice boards or through the employment agencies belonging to the “Bundesagentur für Arbeit” (Federal Employment Agency).

Job offers and useful information for anyone wishing to take advantage of the free movement of labor can be found on EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal. EURES staff work at the job centers in the local employment agencies in Germany.